

Italian prime minister starts Mideast tour

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived Saturday in Saudi Arabia at the start of a Middle East tour to promote the Arab-Israeli peace process. Andreotti is scheduled to meet with King Fahd during his overnight stay. He also is scheduled to visit Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Syria and Libya. Defence Minister Prince Sultan, the third ranking man in the kingdom, met Andreotti on arrival along with other government officials. The kingdom's prime minister is Fahd. Dhahran is the oil-centre of Saudi Arabia. It served as the main assembly point for the U.S.-led coalition forces against Iraq. Italy contributed to the allied forces, basing air force units in the UAE and deploying warships in the region. Italian minesweepers are helping clear hundreds of explosives sown by Iraq off Kuwait. Diplomatic sources said that Andreotti will also meet with the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council who are gathering in Dhahran for a meeting Sunday to discuss post-Gulf war security arrangements.

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Meguid: Arabs will not give up inch of territories

Cairo (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid said Saturday Arabs would not give up a single inch of Israeli-occupied land in any Middle East settlement. Commenting on remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Israel must never abandon even a clod of soil, Abdul Meguid told reporters: "Arabs will not abandon one inch of their occupied lands." The United States has criticised Israel's continued settlement of Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. But Israel has so far resisted U.S. efforts to obtain a Middle East solution based on a land-for-peace formula. Abdul Meguid, who took over as the league secretary-general last month, said the Cairo-based pan-Arab organisation backed current peace efforts "to meet the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people, first and foremost an Israeli withdrawal."

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Palestinians kill 'collaborator'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian activists Saturday shot dead a woman suspected of collaborating with Israel in the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said. Fatima Sharaf, 45, was shot in the head by members of the Black Panthers group, which is associated with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream Fatah group, they added. The attack was unusual because the militants were not masked, they said. The sources said that the attackers fled when Israeli soldiers entered the camp but that hundreds of stone-throwing residents then clashed with the soldiers. The soldiers used live ammunition to disperse the demonstrators. Ten people were arrested. No one was injured.

Bush orders wheat for the poor

WEST POINT, New York (AP) — President George Bush Saturday ordered 300,000 metric tonnes of surplus U.S. wheat to be put aside for international relief efforts. Bush said that the grain would be used to meet relief needs in developing countries of the Middle East, Africa and Asia. "The wheat will be used to provide urgent humanitarian relief to the peoples in the Middle East, Africa and Asia who are suffering widespread hunger and malnutrition," Bush said in a statement.

Agnelli, Andreotti senators-for-life

ROME (R) — Giovanni Agnelli, the chairman of the Fiat auto company, and seven-time premier Giulio Andreotti were named senators-for-life Saturday. President Francesco Cossiga also selected for the honour Francesco de Martino, 34, a socialist leader and former senator, and Paolo Emilio Taviani, 78, a Christian Democrat who during World War II led the resistance in the region around Genoa. Italian presidents are allowed to nominate as life-long senators five distinguished citizens. There are 324 senators in the Italian parliament.

Militants kill Egyptian campaigner

CAIRO (R) — Three Muslim militants stabbed to death two Christian brothers because one of them campaigned for birth control, Egyptian Interior Minister Mohammad Abdul Haim Mousa said Saturday. The militants, armed with knives, attacked Zahir Kamel Abdul Sayed, 33, and his brother Maher, 36, on Thursday night near a village in the southern province of Qena. They were the first reported killings of a sectarian nature in mainly Muslim Egypt since clashes in 1988 between police and Muslim fundamentalists who attacked property owned by members of Egypt's six-million strong Christian Coptic community. One of the militants was arrested after being wounded by police gunfire when he resisted them. Police have launched a manhunt for the other two. Mousa said the pharmacist, who was actively involved in a birth-control campaign, had received a warning from the militants to halt his activities 20 days before he was killed.

Rushdie supporters meet Hurd

LONDON (AP) — Friends of author Salman Rushdie have accused Britain of condoning terrorism by restoring diplomatic links with Iran. Rushdie has been in hiding since Feb. 14, 1989, when the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called on Muslims to kill the author because his book "Satanic Verses" allegedly blasphemed Islam. "The fact that Mr. Rushdie remains in hiding under serious threat to his life amounts to an act of international terrorism. The British government, by refusing to publicly condemn these attempts on Mr. Rushdie's life, while continuing to build relations with Iran, appears to condone such terrorism," the International Committee for the Defence of Salman Rushdie and his publishers said in a statement.

'Only Mideast peace can end the arms race'

Jordan: Bush initiative 'step in right direction,' but must deal with Israel's nuclear arsenal

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan described U.S. President George Bush's initiative on Middle East arms control as a "step in the right direction" but cautioned that it has to be followed by a "real effort to deal with Israel's large arsenal of nuclear and other weapons on the same basis and with the same standard."

The spokesman, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, also questioned the spirit of Bush's plan in light of the firm hacking to

Israel given by U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney two days after the president unveiled his proposals.

He said, however, Bush's plan was in line with the Kingdom's constant calls for clearing the region of all weapons of mass destruction — nuclear, biological or chemical.

He said the plan, announced on Wednesday, would also help countries in the region redirect their huge military spending to

wards development.

"It is a step in the right direction but should be completed by a sincere effort to deal with Israel's huge nuclear arsenal."

The plan would still permit regional nations to acquire the conventional arms they need to defend themselves.

The spokesman repeated Jordan's calls for continued efforts to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict "to end tension in the region and remove any pretexts for the arms race."

Within 24 hours of the president's proposal in Colorado, De-

(Continued on page 5)

Bush sends message to Assad

LISBON (R) — Syria's foreign minister said on Saturday that he hoped a letter from U.S. President George Bush to Syrian leader Hafez Al-Assad would spur progress towards peace in the Middle East.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker handed the letter to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al-Sharaa during two hours of hastily-arranged talks in the Portuguese capital.

Neither Baker nor Sharaa would reveal its contents. Baker told reporters it was a very detailed letter but he insisted it did not contain an invitation to a peace conference.

Sharaa said it had been worthwhile for him to meet Baker in Lisbon and described their encounter as satisfactory.

"There has been minor progress. Any movement is welcome," Sharaa told reporters before he himself had talks with Bessmertnykh.

The United States considers Syria to be the key to the Middle East peace conference that Washington is trying to put together with Moscow's help.

When Baker met Sharaa in

Damascus in May, the two men did not hold a news conference after their talks because the U.S. side detected a new toughening in the Syrian position towards a peace conference.

Baker is understood to believe that Assad is weighing whether he wants to be the champion of Arab nationalists or become known as the Arab leader who made peace with Israel.

Baker feels he has made significant progress on bringing Arabs and Israelis towards a peace conference that would launch direct peace talks between these old adversaries.

The main stumbling block appears now to be Israeli and Syrian differences over what Baker calls symbolic issues — a role for the United Nations and the duration of the peace conference.

Earlier, after his talks with Baker, Bessmertnykh said they had discussed "steps we may take in the future."

Cheney, Egyptians discuss regional security, arms control

ISMAILIYA, Egypt (Agencies) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney conferred with Egyptian leaders Saturday on regional security and arms control.

But despite talk of arms control, Cheney's Egyptian counterpart indicated that his arsenal needs to be modernised to replace outdated 1960s-era Soviet-style weapons with advanced U.S. weapons. Cheney responded with a comment that the United States wants a strong and secure Egypt.

Cheney arrived Friday from Israel, where he discussed the same subjects as well as U.S.-Israeli security cooperation.

In occupied Jerusalem, he told reporters the United States and Israel are stockpiling military equipment in the Jewish state for use in future emergencies. We said the United States wants a similar agreement with Arab nations in the Gulf.

It gave no details of the types of U.S. weapons Tantawi wanted to acquire.

In response, the statement quoted Cheney as saying, "we are eager to ensure the security of Egypt... and we want Egypt to have strong forces capable of repelling aggression whenever necessary."

The United States has supplied Egypt with \$1.3 billion worth of arms annually in recent years. These included 120 F-16 warplanes.

On the way to Cairo from Jerusalem, Cheney told reporters on his plane that he would discuss with Egyptian leaders regional security and President George Bush's Middle East arms-control initiative.

Cheney said Egyptian troops that joined a U.S.-led military

(Continued on page 5)

'Secret' witness in Kuwait trials**Prosecution demands death penalty for 24 media workers**

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — Prosecution on Saturday called for the maximum sentence, the death penalty, against 24 newspaper workers ranging from writers to journalists accused of spreading Iraqi propaganda.

Defence attorneys decried the lack of concrete evidence and said the fear of Iraqi occupation forced the accused to take minor roles at the daily paper.

It was not clear if the judges would issue verdicts Saturday.

The defence lawyers clashed repeatedly with the first prosecution witness brought to court in the 2-week-old trials.

The police captain kept referring to a secret witness who provided most of the testimony for the charges against the defendants, most of them Palestinians.

"It's just not enough. It's all

based on a secret source," said attorney Mohammad Al Enazy, defending 10 of the accused.

Human rights organisations monitoring the trial were also disturbed by the secret testimony.

"That's pathetic. It's not a trial. Two weeks and that's all they come up with?" said Kenneth Roth of the New York-based Human Rights Watch.

The acrimony reached the point where the captain demanded an apology from defence attorney Enad Al Saif for muttering "secret witness, secret witness."

"He's making fun of me," the captain told judge Mohammad Ben Naji, presiding over the panel of three civilian and two military judges in the martial law court.

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The judges showed little sym-

pathy for the defence attorneys questioning the investigation, repeatedly asking why they were pursuing the source.

"The nature of 24 people I am defending is at stake," Al Saif said at one point.

Six defendants appeared before the judge before the court took a midmorning recess.

The prosecution mounted the most serious cases against a Kuwaiti woman, 35-year-old Ibtisam Al Dukhail. It presented the judge with half a dozen copies of the newspaper Al Nida in which her picture appeared and said she had tried to force other Kuwaitis to join.

The woman said when the case first went to trial May 24 that she had worked at the paper out of

the interest of the public.

(Continued on page 5)

announced one day earlier.

The president's plan, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said, "contained measures that are based on assuring stability in the Middle East, and we believe that the weapons systems that Secretary Cheney is talking about are indeed consistent with our desire for stability in the region."

In Cairo analysts commenting on the Bush initiative said Arabs could not accept proposals that appeared to bolster Israeli military

(Continued on page 5)

Nakayama meets Palestinians**Japan wants end to Israeli settlement**

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama ended a three-day visit to Israel on Saturday, telling its government Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territories should end.

"Japan feels that Israeli settlements in the occupied areas breed discontent on the part of the Arabs," Nakayama said at Tel Aviv airport before leaving for Frankfurt.

Nakayama's spokesman, Sadaaki Numata, told reporters: "The foreign minister told his Israeli hosts that he hoped the settlements would be halted."

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has said the continuing Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is the biggest obstacle to Middle East peace talks.

During his visit, Nakayama also told the Israeli government it should implement U.N. resolutions calling on it to exchange the occupied land for peace.

In addition to criticising its policies on the occupied territories, Nakayama stopped short of giving Israel what it wanted on the issue of Japanese companies complying with the Arab economic boycott of the Jewish state.

Israel would like the Japanese government to make a public statement advising companies to disregard the boycott.

Nakayama told a news conference on Friday: "Since the boycott does not obstruct free international exchanges, economic exchanges, we feel that it is undesirable."

But he added: "We are not saying as a government we would implement legislative measures to end the boycott."

The Japanese attitude brought a strong reaction from Israel's ambassador to Tokyo, Nahum Eshkol, who was at the airport to see Nakayama off.

"They could do much more to make their attitude against the boycott public," Eshkol said.

Earlier, in the day Nakayama visited a West Bank refugee camp and pledged more economic and political support for the Palestinians.

Palestinian leaders, however, opposed help in resettling refugees without a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem.

Nakayama met with 11 Palestinian leaders in occupied Arab East Jerusalem on Saturday for one hour before he ended his three-day visit to Israel.

On Friday, Nakayama told Israeli leaders that his country wants to play a more active role in the Middle East. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir suggested that Japan could begin by paying millions of dollars to help resettle Palestinian refugees in the occupied lands.

About 400,000 Palestinians live in 28 squall refugee camps. The Palestinians were displaced by the Israelis in the 1948 Middle East war.

"We ask Japan to play an effective role for solving the Palestinian problem through its (financial) aid and in the United Nations," said PLO supporter Radwan Abu Ayash after meeting with Nakayama.

The Palestinians also told Nakayama of the suffering they have endured due to the Israeli

crackdown of their uprising, now in its 42nd month.

Earlier, Nakayama visited this shanty camp of Dheisheh housing some 8,000 refugees 10 kilometres south of Jerusalem to dedicate a community centre built with a \$250,000 donation from Japan.

In a welcoming ceremony, a girls' choir sang nationalist songs. Nearby young boy waved the outlawed Palestinian flag and residents flashed the V sign.

"From what I saw here," Nakayama said, "Japan will continue offering aid to the Palestinians to raise their standard of living." Nakayama's remarks were translated into Arabic.

The two-story community centre will house a kindergarten and serve as a workshop where women can learn child care and trade.

Israelis claim shooting guerrilla

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli soldiers Saturday shot dead an armed guerrilla who crossed from Jordan, but a second escaped, the military command said.

It said the guerrillas were trying to infiltrate into an army fort along the Jordan River.

The incident occurred near the Jewish settlement of Meholah, 70 kilometres northeast of Jerusalem. One Israeli soldier was slightly wounded from "friendly" fire during the search for the infiltrators, the army said.

Before dawn Saturday, Israeli soldiers spotted two guerrillas who had succeeded in breaching the fence to the fort, an army statement said.

Both men were carrying Soviet-designed Klachnikov assault rifles. The dead guerrilla also had hand grenades, the army said.

It was not immediately clear to which organisation the men belonged. The army said the dead guerrilla had been carrying a Koran, indicating that he may have belonged to the Hamas, or Zealot, movement.

(Continued on page 5)

Superpowers agree to reduce Europe's conventional weapons

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union on Saturday resolved their differences on a treaty to reduce non-nuclear weapons in the Ural mountains. Experts agreed it means no European country will retain the ability to launch a non-nuclear surprise attack against a neighbour.

U.S. President George Bush, heralding the accord in a speech in the United States, described it as "clearing the way for an important step toward a superpower summit" which has been delayed since February.

The United States had accused the Soviets of going back on their word, trying to escape the treaty's ceilings by transferring some equipment to coastal defence units and contending ground forces assigned to naval units were exempt from the accord.

The final work on the conventional forces in Europe treaty means the two sides can resume intensive negotiations on the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). Those talks in Geneva have been proceeding, setting minor issues, but the United States had made clear it would not devote the high-level attention necessary to resolve major disputes until the conventional weapons treaty was settled.

Iraq to pay maximum of 30 per cent of oil profits for damages

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Iraq may have to pay up to 30 per cent of its future oil revenues to compensate victims of its invasion of Kuwait but the ban on oil exports is not likely to be lifted in the near future.

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar announced Friday that Iraq have to pay no more than 30 per cent of its oil revenues, which he estimated would still leave Baghdad with enough money to service its foreign debt, feed its people and rebuild its devastated economy.

The actual percentage Iraq will pay be set later by the U.N. Compensation Commission's governing council, made up of all 15 states of the Security Council.

A European economic expert said he thought this council would set the initial rate lower than 30 per cent because the secretary general's estimates were based on 1993 projections.

"There is no point in trying to bleed Iraq dry if there is nothing coming out of the pipeline," he said.

Yemen says U.S. arms control proposals must include Israel

SANA (R) — Yemen Saturday welcomed a U.S. plan for arms control in the Middle East but said to be acceptable it must include Israel.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani was commenting on President George Bush's proposal to curb the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and restrict conventional forces to a defensive role.

"If we can guarantee that Israel will not possess any arms of mass destruction, then we have no objection to cooperate in this respect. This is something that deserves support and a blessing," Iryani told Reuters.

"Luckily, Yemen has nothing of the sort to be disarmed of. Arab countries which have weapons do so out of fear from Israel," he said.

"Should Israel no longer possess these weapons, then most Arab leaders will welcome the (U.S.) move."

"However, it is significant that very important negotiations are

under a Security Council resolution adopted on April 3 which set terms for a ceasefire in the Gulf war, the secretary general was to set a ceiling on Iraqi war damage payments from sales of its oil. The resolution based the reparations on total revenues, not production.

Iraq U.N. Ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari told Reuters, "we think it is an impossible percentage to implement."

Hesitated the time it would take to repair Iraq's war-damaged oil industry, the low price of oil, the damaging effects of sanctions still in force against his country and the need to service debts to foreign banks and governments.

"I wonder how Iraq will be able to meet its basic needs such as food and medicine," he said.

Even after Iraq's oil industry began functioning again it would produce only about 700,000 barrels a day in the first year of operation, Al Anbari said, describing the anticipated 30 per cent figure for reparations as "unrealistic."

The task of settling damages will be daunting and include Kuwait's staggering losses, estimated at about \$60 billion. Saudi Arabia costs for cleaning up pollution in the Gulf and the claims of thousands of workers who fled Kuwait after the invasion.

Iraq has asked for a five-year moratorium on paying reparations, a request ignored by the Security Council.

There is no sign that the United States, backed by Britain, is willing to let any oil flow out of Iraq as long as President Saddam Hussein is in power.

One U.S. official told Reuters

he expected that Iraq might be able to sell a limited amount of oil if it showed desperate humanitarian need but at the moment the embargo was still being used as pressure on President Saddam Hussein.

Baghdad has asked to sell one billion dollars' worth of oil for food and other goods, but the United States and its allies would like Baghdad to use other resources first such as currency or gold supplies it believed Iraq still has.

The secretary general spelled out his logic at arriving at a 30 per cent ceiling. He said Iraq needed about \$8 billion in civilian imports in 1991 and needed to service an internal debt which according to Baghdad's figures was about \$42 billion.

However, the statement said

the exact figure for Iraq's foreign debt could only be ascertained after discussions between Iraq and its creditors. The Soviet Union, France and Germany are said to be the leading creditors.

Iraq's oil exports were expected to reach about \$21 billion by 1993, the statement said. Imports were expected to absorb about 48 per cent of export earnings and debt servicing should be about 22 per cent, it added.

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Algerian poll campaign opens in uncertainty over Islamic role

ALGIERS (R) — Campaigning for Algeria's first multiparty parliamentary poll in 29 years opened Saturday, dominated by uncertainty whether fundamentalists would take part or pursue demands on the streets for an Islamic state.

Candidates from the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) started wooing voters in their constituencies. But the main opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) left in doubt whether it would take part in the general election.

The FLN and FIS are front runners in the June 27 elections which will end one-party rule in force since independence from France.

Some 5,000 candidates, from 39 parties, with 576 independents, are competing for 542 seats. A second round of voting will be held for front runners on July 18.

Thousands of FIS supporters, who marched through Algiers Friday, are challenging the government's platform of democracy and continued economic reforms.

FLN political bureau member Karim Younes told Reuters his party's candidates, competing for all seats, started campaigning Saturday.

Party posters of a young girl symbolising the future, Madani maintained his question mark over whether the FIS would take part in the elections.

"We are on general strike, politically and in the work place," he told Reuters. "The election campaign makes no sense."

The fundamentalist FIS, led by Abess Madani, has dominated the pre-campaign days after calling an indefinite general strike last Saturday to demand changes in election laws which it said favoured the FLN.

It also demanded presidential

elections be held on the same day as the parliamentary poll.

The FIS has registered candidates in 526 constituencies but at

Friday prayers, attended by an estimated 50,000 people, FIS leaders ignored their earlier demands to amend the voting and focused on calls for an Islamic state.

FIS militants are demanding a fundamentalist Islamic state, challenging the government's platform of democracy and continued economic reforms.

Deputy leader Ali Belhadj told the crowd: "After seven days of strike, this has shown the whole people want an Islamic state. The strike has shown the Islamic breeze which is blowing through the country."

On Saturday, returning to the strikers' original claims, Madani maintained his question mark over whether the FIS would take part in the elections.

"The Socialist Forces Front, led by independence war hero Hocine Ait Ahmed, with candidates in 278 areas, announced its slogan 'Islam is the answer.'

Hamas, led by Mahfoud Nahash, plans to make maximum use of party political TV broadcasts, an official said.

"In three days, we are sending 40 caravans throughout the country to hold meetings in each constituency where we are competing," a Hamas official said.

Hamas wants an Islamic state within a democratic framework.

Two main Berber parties vying for seats said Saturday their campaigns had already started.

The Socialist Forces Front, led by independence war hero Hocine Ait Ahmed, with candidates in 278 areas, announced its slogan "Islam is the answer."

Its main rival in Berber areas like the Kabylie mountains, the Assembly for Culture and Democracy (RCD), seeking a greater say for Berber culture and for a secular state, urged Algerians to have the "courage to speak and act" for the country.

Saudis welcome Palestinian pilgrims

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (AP) —

Saudi Arabia issued a welcoming statement Saturday for Palestinian pilgrims to the annual Hajj whether they travel through Jordan or Egypt.

The statement followed reports from Amman that the kingdom had changed the practice of allowing Arabs living in the Arab territories occupied since 1948 to travel through Jordan en route to Mecca, insisting they use Egypt instead.

The Saudi statement was attributed to a responsible official source, which is the term for a government spokesman.

"There has been no change in the practice of previous years concerning the arrival of pilgrims from occupied Palestinian territories to the kingdom," the statement said.

It added: "The situation remains as is and the kingdom welcomes them and all who hajj to the holy lands through legitimate routes, whether the Palestinian pilgrims come from Jordan or from Egypt."

Jordanian reports said the Saudi decision was reversed following protests from Amman which saw the measure had "political inclinations."

Saudi-Jordan relations have been strained since the Gulf crisis. Jordan siding with Iraq opposed the use of Saudi-based foreign force to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. Egypt was part of the multi-national force that fought Iraq.

Saudi Arabia harbours Islam's holiest shrines at Mecca and Medina to which some 2 million Muslims from around the world flock for the annual Hajj or pilgrimage. The Hajj rituals climax this year around June 23.

The traditional Hajj route for Palestinians from Israel has been through Jordan, which administers religious affairs in the occupied territories lost during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

About 1,460 Arabs from Arab lands occupied since 1948 have registered for the hajj and also a similar number from the occupied territories also plan to make the trip.

Baghdad has wanted to use its own military pilots as crop-dusters near the northern city of Mosul but the plan was opposed by the allies, said a spokesman for the Rome-based Food and

U.N. decides to reopen offices in Lebanon

a visit to Beirut by Perez De Cuellar.

On Friday, Nour informed Minister Farès Bouéz of Perez De Cuellar's intention to visit Lebanon but refused to disclose its date to reporters.

Since the civil war broke out in 1975, the United Nations has closed the Beirut offices of four of its main agencies. These are the Economic Commission for Western Asia, UNESCO, the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organisation.

"All the U.N. offices that had been based in Beirut would be reopened very soon," Nour said in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio stations. He did not elaborate on the remark.

Nour arrived Wednesday on a week-long visit to set the stage for

Libya criticised French stand on Syrian role in Lebanon

NICOSIA (R) — Libya said Saturday that French plans to demand a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon represented an unwarranted intervention in Arab affairs and would not help France's ties with the Arab World.

"These remarks seem strange and unrealistic," the Libyan news agency JANA quoted a foreign ministry source as saying. "They do not serve Franco-Arab ties and will reflect on Arab-European rapprochement, in addition to being a flagrant intervention in Syrian-Lebanese and Arab affairs in general."

No party has the right to interfere with it. It is also a step toward Arab unity and thus any interference is tantamount to an intervention in Arab affairs," the source said.

"We are surprised that French officials talk about Syrian troops in Lebanon and ignore the real reason for their presence. Is it not more proper for them to call for the withdrawal of Zionist enemy forces occupying South Lebanon?"

Flight ban forced Iraq to hire Poles to spray crops

ROME (R) — Allied flight restrictions forced Iraq to recruit Polish civilian pilots to spray crops in the occupied north of the country, a U.N. organisation said Friday.

Baghdad has wanted to use its own military pilots as crop-dusters near the northern city of Mosul but the plan was opposed by the allies, said a spokesman for the Rome-based Food and

Iraq arranged to have the Polish manufacturers of its Mi-2 helicopters send six Polish civilian pilots to spray 94,000 hectares (230,000 acres) of wheat and barley, the spokesman said.

4 Kurdish rebels killed in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Four Kurdish guerrillas were shot dead in a battle with security forces in southeastern Turkey Friday night, the Anatolian news agency said Saturday. It quoted authorities as saying the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) guerrillas were killed in an operation by the security forces near Yoncuk village in Mersin Province. Sixteen PKK guerrillas and one soldier have been killed in three separate clashes in the mainly Kurdish region this week. More than 3,000 people, including civilians, have died in the campaign waged by the PKK since 1984 for an independent state for Turkey's 10 million Kurds.

Switzerland expels U.N. Somali ambassador

GENEVA (R) — Switzerland has expelled Somalia's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, a foreign ministry spokesman said Saturday. The ambassador, Faaduna Issaq Bin, had abused her diplomatic privileges and would have to leave the country by Sunday night, the spokesman said. A second member of the Somalia mission, Osob Mohamed Siad, a daughter of former President Mohamed Siad Barre, was also being asked to leave.

Left wingers criticise Nathan

TEL AVIV (R) — Left-wing legislators criticised peace crusader Abie Nathan for his 33-day hunger strike Friday, calling it emotional blackmail. "If a man says I'm going to die if you don't change the law, that is blackmail," said Citizens' Rights Movement leader, Shulamit Aloni. Nathan, 64, launched his strike April 28, demanding the 1986 law barring contact with terrorist groups be reformed. Under Israeli law the Palestinian Liberation Organisation falls into this category. The Knesset, or parliament, Wednesday rejected Shulamit Party leader Amnon Rubenstein's proposal to change the law. "I think that his behaviour in this incident... has caused great damage to the camp to which he is supposedly connected," Aloni told Army Radio. Now, the left-wing parties will not be able to bring up the proposal again for another six months, she said. Aloni accused Nathan of bringing attention to a law that had been virtually ignored, possibly endangering others. "I think the way the subject was decided, without talking to anyone, pressuring Knesset members... to change the law is a mistake. It's blackmail," Aloni said. It was not the right time. We brought it because we thought he would stop striking but now if he doesn't, the whole thing was a waste."

'Smart' missiles to Gulf states

LONDON (R) — British Defence Contractor Ferranti has negotiated a secret deal to supply Gulf states with "smart" air-to-surface missiles, a British newspaper reported Saturday. The United Arab Emirates has ordered \$500 million worth of the guided missiles, the left-leaning *Guardian* newspaper reported. Quoting defence industry sources, it said the sale had been approved by Washington and London. U.S. President George Bush and British Prime Minister John Major have both called for cuts on the Middle East arms trade.

Bus crash kills 8 children

ANKARA (R) — At least eight Turkish children were killed and about 50 were injured when their bus plunged into a ravine near the eastern city of Van Saturday. The Anatolian news agency said the bus was taking 63 secondary school pupils to a picnic when it fell from a bridge. Seven children died instantly and an eighth died later in a Van hospital. The wounded, including a teacher, were taken to hospitals in the city. The cause of the accident was not immediately known. Anatolian said officials feared the death toll could rise.

should always be verified.

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:15 Jeddah (R)
10:25 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

10:45 Paris, Geneva (RJ)

10:55 London, Brussels (RJ)

10:58 Madrid, Rome (RJ)

10:55 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

ZARQ (RJ)

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09983323)

Zarqa National Hospital (09991071)

Ibn Sina Hospital (09986732)

PRINCESS RAKHA HOSPITAL (02175555)

GRAND CATHOLIC HOSPITAL (02222275)

DR. AL NAJEEB HOSPITAL (02247100)

AQABA (RJ)

PRINCESS HAYA HOSPITAL (03)3141111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre (813813/32)

Abdullah Maternity, J. Amm. (642816)

Queen thanks refugee helpers

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP) — Her Majesty Queen Noor stopped by the headquarters of the Christian Children's Fund on Thursday to thank the child care agency's workers for sending relief supplies to refugees in Jordan.

"We're very appreciative of the support that's been offered," the Queen told a roomful of agency employees.

At the Queen's request, the Christian Children's Fund sent Jordan 10,000 blankets and \$50,000 in relief funds at the height of the Gulf war. The Queen and the private agency are discussing a relief programme for refugee children.

The Queen said Jordan had been flooded with several hundred thousand refugees because of the Gulf war.

About 50,000 refugee children have been added to the country's school system, "quite an extraordinary burden," she said.

She said supplies from the Christian Children's Fund and other international relief agencies would be used to curb malnutrition and improve health care and education.

During a U.S. tour that has taken her to the West Coast, the south and Washington, D.C., the Queen said she had been greeted warmly despite strains between Jordan and the U.S. during the war.

Those tensions stemmed "largely if not entirely from misunderstandings" between Jordan and the U.S., she said.

She said Jordan had done more than any other Middle East nation to advance peace in the region.

"We will continue to play as constructive and as positive a role as we can," she said.



Minister of Higher Education Saeed Al Tal Saturday holds a press conference tackling training and employment of human resources (Petra photo)

Minister says human resources are badly managed in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Saeed Al Tal

Saturday complained of the lack of a general plan in Jordan to organise the training and the employment of human resources and called on the government to establish a council for human resources planning and development.

Referring to university education in Jordan, the minister said that the Kingdom could be alone among world nations where universities and community colleges operate on purely commercial basis.

He said that the creation of so many community colleges and private universities was due to the inability of the government-controlled institutions to accommodate all the students wishing to acquire higher education.

"Soon, ministry-appointed teams will embark on tours of community colleges and private universities to examine their efficiency and their programmes," the minister pointed out. "Should any of these institutions prove to be below the required standard, they will not be allowed to operate," the minister warned.

He said the ministry would issue a guidebook outlining standards required from each college and also providing guidelines for students to choose for their future careers.

Dr. Tal also said that the Ministry of Higher Education planned to limit the fees each college or university charges and would set up special committees for this purpose.

Committee to start checking factories' waste as deadline ends

ZARQA (J.T.) — A government appointed Public Health Safety Committee will soon conduct spot checks during surprise visits to factories and companies set up in the Zarqa River basin

in order to ensure that their waste water, flowing into the river, conforms to specifications set by the concerned authorities, according to an announcement by Zarqa Governor Mohammad Al Shobaki.

Mr. Shobaki said that the deadline given to the various businesses to comply with the regulations ended Friday and the government would not be lenient to violators of the law.

Mr. Shobaki said that the Pub-

lic Health Safety Committee would be implementing directives given by the prime minister who stressed the need for factories to treat waste water going into the river that feeds the King Talal Dam in order to reduce in a minimum the level of pollution. The water in the dam is used for irrigating the Jordan Valley farms.

According to Deputy Governor Ghaleb Imeqma, the teams Saturday embarked on inspection tours in order to ensure that factories abide by the regulations.

The stringent measures followed an outcry by the Jordan Valley farmers who claimed they

sustained JD 60 million losses in damages to their crops after irrigating them with contaminated water from the King Talal Dam.

The prime minister recently announced the formation of a special committee to investigate into the causes of the damages, but a final report is still to be submitted to the government.

At a meeting with the Jordan Farmers Federation, the prime minister announced last week that the government was granting the federation JD 500,000 to purchase fertilisers, seeds and other requirements to be sold to the farmers at nominal value in order to encourage production.

Mr. Huneiti said that the

Adnan Al Jaijouli

Jordan, Egypt to discuss cooperation in health

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Adnan Al Jaijouli left Saturday for Cairo on an official several-day visit for talks with his Egyptian counterpart aimed at promoting Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in health-related affairs.

The minister will also take part in an annual Arab conference on emergency cases and cases resulting from accidents on the roads, due to open in Cairo Monday.

The three-day conference will tackle a number of questions of concern to the Arab countries, according to Dr. Jaijouli who said he would discuss with the regional director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) the organisation's assistance to Jordan's health programmes.

Before going to Cairo, the health minister opened here a training seminar attended by countries in the Mediterranean region.

The WHO-sponsored seminar will tackle topics related to insecticides and heavy metals and their adverse effects on public health.

The WHO representative in Jordan and Syria stressed the need for doctors in the region to turn their attention to occupational risks and matters related to health care for the workers in factories dealing with poisonous materials.

He said that the training seminar was designed to help orient the participants on proper means of providing protection against poisonous materials to which workers are exposed.

Countries represented in the seminar are: Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen and Tunisia.

King congratulates Italy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to Italian President Francesco Cossiga to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on Italy's national day. King Hussein wished President Cossiga good health and happiness and the Italian people further progress and prosperity.

Kuwaiti crown prince congratulates Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a cable from Kuwaiti Prime Minister, Crown Prince Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, who congratulated King Hussein on Jordan's Independence Day. Prince Saad wished King Hussein continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received a similar cable from the Kuwaiti crown prince.

Prince Hassan to attend graduation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will Sunday patronise the graduation ceremony of the 3rd batch of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) students.

Minister back from Nairobi talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Rural and Municipal Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Al Zaben returned to Amman from Nairobi Friday after heading the Jordanian delegation at the 16th session of the United Nations Environmental Programme held between May 25 and May 30. Dr. Zaben told reporters at the airport shortly after arrival that the Jordanian delegation had presented at the meetings a working paper dealing with the environmental experiment in Jordan and measures taken by the government to tackle environmental problems. The delegation, he said, participated with Arab delegations in drafting a resolution on the environmental situation in the occupied Palestinian lands and another resolution on solving environmental problems resulting from the Gulf war.

Maraqa wins JMA presidency

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The newly elected President of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) Dr. Ishaq Maraqa hopes to introduce drastic changes in the concepts and activities of the association, transforming it into a true professional entity rather than a politically-oriented association.

"I am determined to bring about a transformation of the basic concepts of the association in terms of structure, election of the board members and association activities, and will try to solve other issues of concern to the Jordanian doctors and specialists," Dr. Maraqa told the Jordan Saturday.

"What I want to see is an association oriented towards promoting the profession of medicine itself rather than a politicisation of the association, as the practice has been so far," said Dr. Maraqa.

Dr. Maraqa won the election, held Friday, when he got 925 votes against 788 votes that went to his sole rival Dr. Hassan Khris.

Dr. Maraqa, 57, was elected along with nine members who will serve with him on the JMA board for the coming two years.

Soon after his election, Dr. Maraqa, who ran as an independent candidate, delivered a speech at the Professional Association Complex promising to remain committed towards preserving the unity and enhancing the rights of the doctors and their association.

To date, the JMA board had been based on the political rather than professional concepts, with different political blocs nominating their candidates to the post, but this is totally unbecoming of a profession and it has to stop," said Dr. Maraqa.

He said that the president and the board members should be elected on the strength of their professional orientations.

Dr. Maraqa denied that he had represented the Muslim movement among the doctors and reiterated that he was running in his capacity as an independent candidate "and that is why I won."

His other concerns, he said, included the Jordan Medical Board, which required modernisation, the Higher Medical Council, where the JMA should play a more active role, and the unemployed doctors.

Dr. Maraqa said that he planned to create a special fund that



Ishaq Maraqa

can extend help to the unemployed doctors or help find jobs.

"Furthermore, I intend to approach the Saudi Arabian government for the purpose of finding employment for the Jordanian doctors who had proved their high standard and skill," he noted.

Asked if the JMA fund, he said it stood at JD 5 million, but the JMA owned JD 2 million in cash and intended to set up a housing estate for the Jordanian doctors.

Dr. Maraqa, a neurologist, said he hoped that the newly elected nine-member board would agree in his programme and help draw up a plan of action that would

promote JMA's activities in the country.

According to the official results announced at dawn Saturday, the following doctors became JMA members for the new term: Daoud Muhtasib, Yousef Othman, Yousef Mnasher, Jaafar Huneiti, Basem Dajani, Mousa Abu Eneid, Zaher Ezmeili, Mohammad Al Baraineh and Adam Al Abdalla.

Fourteen other candidates came second runners in the elections where 1,741 cast their votes in Amman, Karak and Irbid.

Press reports had earlier said that Dr. Maraqa represented the Islamic movement while Dr. Hasan Khris represented the nationalist movement. Dr. Maraqa denied he represented any political group and emphasised that he would be of service to all doctors in his association.

Five of those running under Dr. Khris's bloc won as JMA members. They are: Yousef Mnasher, Jaafar Huneiti, Mousa Abu Eneid, Mohammad Al Baraineh and Adam Al Abdalla. The other winners were mostly running as independent.

According to JMA sources, only 1,740 doctors took part in the election though a total of 3,219 are registered with the JMA.

Jordanian, Japanese parliamentarians stress need for just Mideast settlement

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of a visiting Japanese parliamentary delegation Saturday stressed the need for bolstering Jordanian-Japanese cooperation in all fields, especially in finding a settlement to the Middle East problem.

Speaking at a meeting with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyyat, the Japanese parliamentarian Yushio Khris said that his delegation's visit aimed at bolstering such cooperation and at discussing just solutions for the

region's chronic problems.

Mr. Khris stressed the importance of Jordan's role in the peace process and noted that his country was willing to provide assistance to the needy countries of the region.

The delegation, which represents the Arab-Japanese Parliamentary Friendship Association, was briefed by Dr. Arabiyyat on Jordan's experiment in parliamentary and democratic rule.

Dr. Arabiyyat said that Jordan sought to bolster its ties with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said the Arab countries

hoping to benefit from and contribute to the new world order, and hoped to bolster their ties with the Japanese people in economic, political and social fields.

The Arab-Japanese Parliamentary Friendship Association was established in 1973 for the purpose of bolstering Arab-Japanese relations.

Several parliament members and the Japanese ambassador to Jordan were present at the meeting.

Demand for construction materials increases

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Jordanian association of workers in marble, bricks and masonry Yousef Huneiti said Saturday that there had been a clear boom in the construction business in Jordan in the wake of Gulf war which brought about increased demand for construction materials.

The bricks, marble and stone factories have proved to be incapable of coping with the increasing demand even though they are trying to work at full capacity following almost nine months of reduced activity due to the Gulf crisis. Mr. Huneiti said.

He said that the increase had come about largely due to the growing demand for materials in Jordan alone as exports are still at a minimum level.

According to Mr. Huneiti, members of the association have succeeded with difficulty in recruiting some Jordanian workers to produce construction materials to cope with the growing demand, and the association has approached the Ministry of Labour's employment offices to provide them with more trained Jordanian workers and to allow non-Jordanians to be employed

for the time being.

The Ministry of Labour has recently adopted measures reducing to a bare minimum the employment of non-Jordanian workers in various businesses, allowing them only where no Jordanian substitutes were available for the jobs.

Mr. Huneiti also said that a number of brick factories were still unable to function due to lack of sufficient number of Jordanian workers.

"Because of the reduced number of Jordanian workers, the production costs have risen without any improvement to the quality of the products," said Mr. Huneiti. "Besides, the existing factories do not function at full capacity and there can never be any surplus for export unless sufficient workers are supplied to these factories," Mr. Huneiti added.

According to Mr. Huneiti, in previous years the construction material factories in Jordan used to export JD 100 million worth of various products annually and used to employ 15,000 workers. He expressed hope that once the factories are working at full capacity, exports will resume.

Seminar tackles vocational training in the Arab World

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of institutions responsible for vocational training in six Arab countries gathered in Amman Saturday for a five-day seminar designed to promote vocational training in the Arab region and to discuss the prospect of establishing a regional network to supervise vocational training programmes.

The U.N. sponsored seminar is attended by delegates representing Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Egypt and Sudan as well as representatives of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

UNDP Representative Rafiq Shakkar said that the seminar was part of U.N. assistance to help developing nations promote their socio-economic sectors.

The five-day seminar aims at expanding work in vocational training organisations in the Arab World through promoting exchanges of expertise and providing assistance in terms of programmes and training.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITION

★ Exhibition of etchings, lithographs and monoprints, by Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Duweik at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. — 5 p.m.)

Israelis claim shooting guerrilla

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli chief of staff Lt. Gen. Ehud Barak arrived on the scene of the incident and questioned soldiers and regional commanders, the army said.

The army also said Saturday that Israeli soldiers had apprehended what they described as "a Jordanian soldier" the day before near a water park along the Dead Sea.

The "Jordanian soldier," dressed in civilian clothes, pulled out a commando knife when confronted by an Israeli soldier guarding the water park at Kibbutz Qalya, 27 kilometres southeast of Jerusalem, the army conceded.

"The soldier fired into the air and captured the Jordanian soldier, who cannot be named according to regulations."

They were the first infiltration attempts along the ceasefire line with Jordan since April 18, when an armed guerrilla killed an Israeli farmer and wounded three others before being shot dead by Israeli troops.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Financial Committee needs public help

AMMAN (Petra) — The Financial Committee at the Lower House of Parliament is seeking public help in matters related to financial and economic development in Jordan. The committee's rapporteur Mati Al Bustanji issued a call to members of the public to come forward with proposals and views about economic and financial matters that could help the committee draw up a new law pertaining to Jordanian companies. The committee chairman is Dr. Abdullah Ensour.

ACC head back from Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Hassan Ibrahim returned to Amman Friday after visiting Cairo. Mr. Ibrahim said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he met during his visit with the secretary general of the Arab League and several Egyptian officials with whom he discussed ways to enhance and activate joint Arab action in the coming stage.

No lines for official business at home

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Plan has shortcomings

U.S. President George Bush announced with much fanfare Wednesday his detailed proposal to curb the spread of conventional, nuclear, chemical and biological weapons as well as surface to surface ballistic missiles in the Middle East region. This initiative coincided with the visit to Israel by U.S. Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney to consolidate the U.S.-Israeli strategic and security cooperation and streamline the additional U.S. military support to Israel to the tune of \$750 million.

Israel's anti-missile Arrow programme appears to receive the lion's share of Washington's interest and is targeted for extra funding from the U.S. to the extent of 70 per cent of its production costs. The clearly contradictory signals coming out of the U.S. capital, one calling for a ceiling on conventional and nonconventional weapons in the region and the other offering Israel more and greater military support, make a mockery of the entire exercise to rid the area of the scourge of war.

But that is not all. In announcing his outline for disarmament for this part of the world, President Bush said that halting the proliferation of weapons while supporting the legitimate need of every state to defend itself will require the cooperation of many states in the region and around the world.

Yet the punch line in the newest U.S. initiative to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction is directed to the ban on the future production or buying of weapons-grade uranium and to place all nuclear facilities under international safeguards. In this sense the plan is seriously lacking because it does not address the issue of what to do with existing Israeli nuclear capabilities conservatively estimated to be less than one hundred nuclear warheads. Viewed against this remarkable deficiency, Mr. Bush's outline for an arms control in the area aims to maintain Israeli monopoly on the possession of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons. Such a plan therefore cannot be acceptable to the Arab side without addressing this patent intransigence.

There are other features of the disarmament programme that are also devoid of balance. Take for example the call for a freeze on the purchase, production and testing of surface-to-surface missiles with the ultimate aim of eliminating them. Given the Israeli air superiority, the Arab's acquisition of such missiles was their only way to deter Tel Aviv's obvious control of the airspace in the region. There is a need therefore to curb the Israeli superiority in space in order to make this element in the U.S. plan more acceptable to the Arab side.

As the call to ban all chemical and biological weapon systems, it presents no problem for either side to accept such a demand especially in view of the fact that both systems of weapons are outlawed under existing international law.

Yet the biggest flaw in the entire scheme is its attempt to put the cart before the horse since it does not envisage the attainment of a lasting and just peace in the area as a prerequisite to its implementation. By shunning away the organic link that clearly exists between the issues of peace and war, the whole exercise remains lopsided in perspective. Only by addressing the Arab-Israeli conflict in its entirety would any plan to curb armament have a chance of success. With U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's peace initiative hanging in the balance, there is no sure way through which the parties to the conflict can feel secure enough to appreciate the salient features of Mr. Bush's proposals. The least that the parties may expect in this context is a parallel consideration of the issues of peace and armament in the area. Anything short of that would be an exercise in futility.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA' Arabic daily criticised the United States for envisaging a plan for disarmament which it intends to impose on the Arabs but not on Israel and a statement by an American administration official saying that mass-destruction weapons represent the "crown jewels" for Israel which cannot be disposed off. The paper noted that the United States seems to be determined to maintain Israeli military superiority under all circumstances, and for this reason, it has just announced plans to provide Israel with more weapons and fighter planes. Furthermore, and in this hostile atmosphere directed against the Arabs, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir announced that the Jewish state cannot give up one inch of Arab land occupied since 1967, the paper noted. By adopting this policy towards the Middle East, the United States has thus openly declared its strategy and the Arabs have no justification for further delay in announcing their clear attitude towards this flagrant defiance to their existence and their interests, the paper stressed. There is a great gap between what the Arabs want, and they are justified in their demands, and Washington's plans towards the Middle East, said the paper. It said that the Arabs now realise that Washington is just bragging about its intention of establishing peace in the Arab region, while it is openly supporting Israel's military superiority over all Arabs.

Sawt Al Shabab Arabic daily made a mockery of the American official stand with regard to the situation in the Middle East region and the statements by the U.S. administration officials. The paper said while Bush announced that he intends to introduce a plan for disarmament in the Middle East, his defence secretary announced that he intends to provide Israel with further numbers of advanced war planes and planes to help the Jewish state develop its rocket programme by providing it with \$300 million. The paper said that the Arabs cannot understand such hypocrisy and such double standards, and can only explain this attitude by deepening their realisation that Washington intends to disarm the Arabs while keeping Israel in a position to dictate its will on the whole Arab Nation. The paper said that the Arabs can by no means believe that the Americans are serious about their peace initiatives, at a time when they openly announce that they will pursue a plan of bolstering Israel's military capabilities and by announcing that Washington will use Israel as a warehouse for storing U.S. military hardware to confront any war in the future.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Economic adjustment should resume immediately

JORDAN's present financial position is healthy. The budget deficit has been covered by foreign aid and the reserves of the Central Bank are comfortable. This was made possible because hundreds of millions of dollars in overdue interest were not paid. Can this continue into 1992 and beyond?

It seems, at the moment, that Arab aid to Jordan is out of question in the foreseeable future. Foreign aid, however, is tied to the implementation of economic sanctions against Iraq, which hopefully will not last for long. The foreign creditors have started to press their demands for payment.

Under these conditions, the government should act without further delay, but nothing seems to be happening or about to happen. The present government is not even trying to worry about the future, perhaps because it has no future.

Jordan adopted an economic adjustment programme approved by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in April 1989, only six months after the eruption of the foreign indebtedness crisis in October 1988. The programme aimed at the gradual reduction of substantial imbalances in the economy.

Since then, the programme was implemented successfully. It achieved the main objectives in many areas, especially the budget, the balance of trade, the balance of payments, domestic

savings, rebuilding of reserves, and exchange rate stability. The implementation lasted for 15 months until it was interrupted by the Gulf crisis, when Jordan was hit hard in all its sources of foreign exchange such as Arab aid, exports to Iraq and Gulf states, remittances from expatriates, over and above the near standstill of tourism and transit activities.

The IMF, the creditors of the Paris Club, and the private creditors of the London Club understood the situation. They did not push for repayments of the debt. On the contrary, they came to Jordan's side by fresh financial help especially from Japan, Germany, and the European Community.

Thanks to the substantial aid received by the government, the suspension of debt service, and Iraqi crude oil, Jordan was able to manage its problems, survive the crisis, and absorb the shock. But what comes next?

It is not secret that creditors are now demanding the resumption of repayment. Rescheduling needs a fresh IMF certificate of good economic conduct which we do not have any more. More important, it was agreed by all major donors that all international aid to the states in the region will, from now on, be tied to fundamental economic reforms.

In other words, unless and until we have an acceptable

adjustment programme, we shall not be considered eligible for receiving foreign aid. Even the aid from the \$15 billion Arab Fund that was established by the Gulf states will be conditional on economic reforms as defined by the IMF.

However, a proper adjustment programme is needed for our own best interest. This is necessary in order to attain durable growth, equitably shared by the population, coupled with a stable external position. We should undertake this crucial task even if it were not imposed as a condition for eligibility to debt relief, rescheduling, and foreign financial aid.

Labour, capital, and goods markets will need to be opened to free competition. Rationalisation of subsidies and decontrol of domestic prices, are a must. These reforms would permit more efficient interaction between capital surpluses and labour surplus, in an environment of increasing integration with the global economy.

Time is running out, and the current comfortable position may not continue unless the government made an urgent and decisive move to resume adjustment vigorously and push ahead with reform. If we do not do it willingly now, we shall have to do it anyway later on, but at a much higher economic and social price. Adjustment should be resumed, and soon.

Holocaust mentality obscures Israel's vision

By Robert Bermudes

THE Israel-Palestine conflict is the product of the Israeli political philosophy of "empowerment." This new "guiding star" of Israel is a threat to the tradition of an ancient religious people; it supersedes the 1800-year-old rabbinical tradition which had counselled passivity, non-resistance and powerlessness.

With the defeat of the Zealots in the second century A.D., the Jewish community turned its back on racial exclusivism and rooted Judaism in the *Torah* and the sayings of the Rabbis, the *Mishna*. The passages of the Bible so important to Jews and Christians reflecting a God of love, justice and peace strongly influenced Jewish culture and politics in the centuries that followed. Those writings rejected the older, racially exclusive concepts of their people and their God. Ethical Judaism's appeals to high ideals and universalism became enthroned for 1800 years.

It is now, therefore, important to ask why, after the emergence of political Zionism in the 19th century, there has been a shift from the ethical mandates of the Prophets and the *Mishna* to the pragmatic interests of the present Israeli government, which now espouses an exclusivist view of God: God has mandated "The Land" to the Jews. Beginning

with Theodore Herzl, the assertion that "Israel is the country of the Jews and only the Jews" has been at the heart of Zionist dogma. In turn David Ben Gurion, Golda Meir, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir all espoused this exclusive view, attributing their possession of "The Land" to divine will. Even recently, Shamir, on at least one public occasion, has rejected the land-for-peace formula with the assertion that "God has given Israel this land."

The impact of the Holocaust

The shift in beliefs was greatly accelerated by the unprecedented suffering of the Jews at the hands of the Nazis. In fact, I suggest the Holocaust became the supreme crisis of faith for Jewry and has brought a wholly new search for meaning.

This question arose: if the God of the chosen people once rescued the faithful from Egypt, why did he not rescue their offspring from the Holocaust? If God left their reper-

For many of today's Jews, God's answer came with and lies in the formation of the state of Israel and through the power that statehood represents. The point was not wasted on the Holocaust survivors that the essential ingredient inherent in the preservation of any sovereign state — especially a sovereign Israel — is power. It is clear to Israel's present leadership that the acquisition of

power is inevitably and absolutely essential, and the earlier virtue of powerlessness is now viewed as unforgivable sin. Their slogan is now the oft-repeated phrase "never again." They must keep the Holocaust fresh in the world's consciousness. They must acquire, enlarge and employ military power to ensure their security.

Political power, sustained by European and North American Jews who are increasingly politically active, has become "sacred." This transition in Jewish thinking from "quiet invisibility" to activism reflects the shift from the sacramental to the secular, from effacement and powerlessness to empowerment.

"Chequebook Judaism"

It would seem that financial, military and political power is Israel's highest priority. Marc Ellis, a Jewish theologian, asserts that the "newly formed political attitudes and alliances of American Jewry are seen by some as Judaism without religious content, or 'chequebook Judaism' that substitutes financial support for religious obligation." Israel's need to amass power has reached the level of sacred principle. The new reactionary pragmatism is writing its own type of "sacred" literature. Accounts that tell and retell 20th century events help to shape the framework for a new

Jewish state founded on expediency, military alliances and power, surrounded, of course, by an "eternally hostile world."

The failure of the present Israeli government to heed the Prophetic tradition further contributes to the bankruptcy of Jewish values. The Prophets did not merely hold up perfectionist ideals; they explicitly denounced those faults and potentially disastrous actions from which their community sought to hide. The tragic result of this repression of the Prophetic tradition has meant that many Jews can no longer understand another's story, hear another's pain or acknowledge that other communities' struggles for freedom are as valid as their own.

So much of the ethical tradition has been repressed in favour of this newly exalted empowerment that it is in danger of being forced to go underground or die. One rarely hears any call for justice for Palestinians from American Jewry. Yet, was it not Amos who eloquently denounced the social injustices in the Northern Kingdom of Israel in the eighth century B.C.? "You oppress the righteous and take bribes and you deprive the poor of justice in the courts. Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream" (5:21).

"God admonished the chosen people, "do not ill treat an alien

or oppress him, for you were aliens in Egypt, you know the heart of the stranger" (Exodus 23:9). Isaiah condemned his own people of the Southern Kingdom of Judah because "justice is far from us" Jeremiah chastised his people who were arrogantly confident that the existence of the Temple in Jerusalem provided a guarantee of their security regardless of the moral condition of society. What message do these words convey to the present Israeli leadership, one wonders?

It

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Holocaust philosophy fails completely since it does not provide a climate for peace and solidarity between Israeli and Palestinian. Even worse proof of its harm are the deep division fostered within the state of Israel between warring factions. Worse yet, Holocaust philosophy fosters the worship of a national security state and militarism. In contrast, the religion of the Old Testament Prophets spurns systems of control and domination and favours the quest for justice, peace and solidarity between oppressed peoples. Only Israel's return to that tradition can bring a new sense of identity to Jew and Palestinian, and peace to their land.

The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Bermudes is senior minister of the Irondequoit United Church of Christ, Rochester NY. His article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

Champion of a world in chains

Amnesty International turned 30 years old on May 27. Oliver Gillie from *The Independent* salutes an organisation that no government can intimidate or silence.

WHEN the moral high ground is pre-empted, an onslaught of righteous indignation provides the best chance to reclaim it quickly. That was Margaret Thatcher's tactic when Amnesty International dared to ask her about the shooting of three members of the IRA in Gibraltar in 1988.

Mrs. Thatcher was furious. The inquiry was "utterly disgraceful" she said, and made it clear she would not reply.

Her fury emanated from the knowledge that Amnesty could not be ignored. The importance of its work was recognised in 1977 when it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. It is taken seriously all over the world. And it was not afraid to ask question and to say publicly that it was investigating whether the Gibraltar killings were "extra-judicial executions."

Friends of Israel, or any other country, would have difficulty in lobbying the organisation or blocking one of its investigations because of its rule that countries are not investigated by their own nationals. For example, Amnesty's principal researcher on human rights in Israel is an Italian gentile. Similarly, neither the British branch nor British nationals investigate possible abuses of

human rights here. Mr. Reoch, the spokesman for the international branch in London, is Canadian.

Whatever is said by British politicians about Amnesty's work here; the government tacitly recognises the value of its activities elsewhere. British politicians frequently consult Amnesty about the state of human rights in the countries they intend to visit because it has a reputation for accuracy.

Amnesty, 30 years old and just celebrating, began in 1961 when British lawyer Peter Benenson wrote an article in the *Observer* called "The Forgotten Prisoners." Its first confrontation with the U.K. government came in 1966 when it alleged that British troops were using torture in Aden.

"The resulting controversy nearly sank Amnesty," Mr. Reoch says. "It had been the darling of the liberal establishment in England until then. But they came down on it like a tonne of bricks because they believed it should be looking at the rest of the world."

The government appointed a commission of inquiry which, in effect, acknowledged the problem by recommending important changes in interrogation procedures.

Critics often claim that Amnes-

ty has a political bias. South Africans have called it a communist organisation and the Soviets have said it is run by the CIA. Such accusations, coming from both the left and the right, suggest that the organisation is occupying different ground — moral ground.

Amnesty's weapons, designed to embarrass officials and governments and so secure action, are its reports and the letters written by more than a million members worldwide. The president of Colombia's office recently received 20,000 letters from its members within a week. And the organisation says one West African head of state complained to an Amnesty delegation about the deluge of letters that always arrived when the authorities detained someone for questioning.

The effectiveness of these letters is described graphically by Julio de Peña Valdez, a trade unionist who was imprisoned naked in an underground cell in the Dominican Republic in 1975. "When the first 200 letters came, the guards gave me back my clothes," he said. "Then the next 200 letters came and the prison director came to see me. When the next pile of letters arrived, the director got in touch with his superior. The letters kept coming and coming: 3,000 of

them. The president was informed. The letters still kept arriving and the president called the prison and told them to let me go."

When Mr. de Peña Valdez was released, the Dominican president, Joaquin Balaguer, called him to his office for a "man-to-man talk." He asked me "How is it that a trade union leader like you has so many friends all over the world?" And he showed me an enormous box full of letters he had received," Mr. de Peña Valdez said.

In 1984, children in Norway responded to a radio appeal that presented the story of a nine-year-old Ethiopian boy who had spent his entire life in prison with his mother. The children sent drawings, cards and letters to the Amnesty office in Oslo, which sent them on to the Ethiopian president in a huge parcel. Five weeks later, the boy and his mother were freed.

Amnesty has survived because it has a narrow focus. It has a precise mandate based upon the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights: to obtain the release of prisoners of conscience, to end torture, the death penalty and other cruel and degrading treatment of prisoners, and to obtain fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners.

The implement this mandate it must maintain an intellectual rigour in the most difficult circumstances, and it is this that commands the attention of governments. Amnesty tries to distinguish between allegations and facts. Nevertheless, by repeating allegations it gives them a certain authority, something the organisation occasionally regrets.

Last year, it took up the case of several "prisoners of conscience" who were, according to media reports, being held in psychiatric institutions in Romania. Members were asked to begin a letter-writing campaign. But further investigations found that all the people in the institutions were, in fact, suffering from mental illness.

It is the letter writing that makes Amnesty special — a constituency of one million members around the world who between them carry a great deal of influence.

This influence demonstrates the power of the citizen to change government policy and bureaucratic thinking. It is the visible demonstration of a force for good.

The fact that Amnesty has survived for 30 years shows that even when the human spirit is bullied and tortured into submission there is someone to call the bullies to account.



مكتبة الأصل

Only peace can end arms race

(Continued from page 1)

any supremacy. Egyptian political observers and some Western diplomats said the Middle East arms control initiative seemed to favour Israel by leaving its nuclear weapons and defence industries intact.

Israel refuses to confirm or deny a widespread belief that it has nuclear arms.

Bush proposed barriers to exports that contribute to weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, a freeze and later a ban on surface-to-surface missiles and production of nuclear weapons material, and restriction of conventional forces to a defensive role.

Egypt, the largest recipient of U.S. military and civil aid after Israel, has welcomed the initiative. It has long advocated a Middle East free of chemical and nuclear arms.

But Syria said on Friday that Bush's plan would apparently boost Israel's military might, unravelled in the region.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaz said Damascus was still studying the proposal but it seemed it would lead, if implemented, to promoting Israel's military supremacy.

Cheney, who arrived in Egypt from Israel on Friday, lunched with Mubarak on Saturday at El-Manshiya on the Suez Canal. Officials said they discussed arms control and other post-Gulf war issues for more than two hours.

"I don't see any point in introducing the (arms control) proposal at all because it appears to keep Israel's capability untouched," said Salama Ahmed Salama, managing editor of Egypt's influential semi-official daily Al Ahram.

"Cheney seems to have concluded that Israel has the right to keep what it already has," he added. "I think Arabs are being deceived by proposals that allow Israel whatever it wants."

A Middle East analyst at Washington's Brookings Institute echoed the view that Israel's advantage would be preserved.

"Israel would get to keep its (nuclear) stockpile and since none of the Arab states has nuclear arms and Iraq's programme has been destroyed, that would be a big plus for them (the Israelis)," William Quandt said.

A Western diplomat based in Cairo also pored cold water on the arms control proposals.

"Israel has no intention of giving up what it does not admit to having, so it would claim compliance with the proposals as far as nuclear weapons are concerned," he told Reuters.

Rafsanjani calls for hostage deal

(Continued from page 1)

In recent days, Hizbullah has said it would trade two Israelis it is holding for Arabs held by Israel.

He added: "Besides they need some time to gain the numerous concessions they want and carry on their work to make the Iraqi people exhausted and the next government weak."

The Iranian president said a change in leadership had not yet been forced on Iraq because "this dilly-dallying is to find suitable pawns."

Iraq has reported increasing economic problems stemming from the embargo imposed by the U.N. Security Council after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. A special U.N. committee has approved the unfreezing of Iraqi financial assets, but so far no countries have responded.

Rafsanjani's wide-ranging interview with Jomhuri Islami was timed to mark the second anniversary of the death of Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. He died on June 3, 1989.

Iran and Iraq, which were at war from 1980-88, remain tense neighbours at the head of the Gulf.

Rafsanjani was asked about efforts by Kurdish leaders to reach an agreement with Baghdad for autonomy in northern Iraq.

"They wanted to take advantage of Saddam's weakness and get concessions," Rafsanjani said.

He said that if President Saddam remained in power, he could not be counted on to carry out the pact, and that if he were ousted, his successors would have no obligation to honour it.

"In my view they (the Kurds) haven't gained anything," Rafsanjani said.

'Secret' witness in Kuwait trials

(Continued from page 1)

she would be raped, but the prosecution said she volunteered.

She denied she had ever worked as a reporter, but the prosecution said there were letters asking for press credentials for her for a number of stories, including unmasking a mural of Saddam Hussein.

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Cheney, Egyptians discuss security

(Continued from page 1)

would be opposed if a similar deal were cut between the Jewish state's arch foe Syria and the Soviet Union.

"No, there is no contradiction. The Americans understand ... that the source of the problem is the lack of symmetry in the amount of weapons," Arens said in an interview with Israeli radio Saturday.

"The Arabs have four or five and in some instances seven times the amounts of weaponry that we have. This is the factor that makes the region unstable and creates (the Arab states) to initiate a war against us," Arens said.

Arens had said on Friday Israel

were cut between the Jewish state's arch foe Syria and the Soviet Union.

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"The Arabs have four or five and in some instances seven times the amounts of weaponry that we have. This is the factor that makes the region unstable and creates (the Arab states) to initiate a war against us," Arens said.

"Let's not forget that this is

Parliament at mid-term: Not easy to assess

By Mureed Hammad

the first elected house we have had since the mid-sixties," said George Hawatmeh, editor of the English daily *The Jordan Times*. He suggested to Jordan Issues and Perspectives that efforts should be made to strengthen and cement this experiment. "Democracy is a cultural institution, not only in parliament but also at the grassroots level, which means that we the people have to change our practices," he said.

The other school mostly reflects views of the average man in the street, who sees in the House a magic prescription to heal the ailments that have accumulated over the past two decades. It often assumes that members of parliament can deal with major concerns overnight. Therefore, this school's major feelings were that the House did little or nothing on major issues, like improving the economy and living conditions or dealing with alleged corruption.

Lower House Speaker Abdal-Latif Arabyiat (Muslim Brotherhood) acknowledged parliament's several shortcomings in dealing with issues like financial and administrative corruption, but he also put part of the blame on the government. He told a recent press conference that solving such important issues requires cooperation between the legislative and executive branches. At the same time, he underlined that the house has approved 97 draft laws during

we must give them enough time to fulfill their election campaign pledges."

Other people said they felt sorry for House members because they were subjected to "non-stop and heavy bombardment of demands and requests, some of which are quite impossible." However, people in Tafileh, a poorer and less developed agricultural region in the south were much more critical. Most of their comments centred on the fact that they were ignored by their representatives "once they settled down in their parliament seats."

Some said that "none of the grandiose promises were fulfilled ... all we got was plenty of speeches," while others even called on members of parliament to resign and give way to a more dedicated house.

Citizens in Jerash and the Jordan Valley held similarly sceptical views, while calling on their MPs to pay more attention to their constituents' particular concerns, such as agriculture in the Jordan Valley.

House Speaker Arabyiat had earlier said he was keen on changing the procedural structure of the House, which he blamed for hampering its performance. He said that the house had requested an extraordinary summer session to make up ground lost during the recent months. He said that the House was studying various internal rules of a number of international parliaments in the hope that it could benefit from them.

One political analyst reflected wide-spread sentiment when he said, "If the House going to be given the benefit of the doubt, it must bypass the causes of delay and get down to real business — meeting the voters' demands."

Public concern does not seem to centre on passing law as much as on dealing decisively with issues that touch on the day-to-day needs of the people.

In a sign of the new role of the Jordanian press in promoting accountability of public office-holders, the Arabic daily *Al-Rai* recently began publishing a series of public opinion reports on how people view the performance of parliament.

People in the northern agricultural, industrial and university city of Irbid, for example, were divided between those who expressed satisfaction at the House's performance and those who did not.

Former minister Traf Al Qadi said, "attacking parliament will only deny us our only chance of a real democracy. Our MPs have done well, and



Bassam Haddadin (left, second row)



signs that the House is doing something. Several members of parliament used the summer recess to address local meetings, seminars and conferences, finding themselves on the defensive much of the time.

Ajloun MP Ahmad Inab (Liberal) and former House Speaker Sulaiman Arrar (nationalist), in a recent lecture at Ajloun college in north Jordan, played down fears that the House was deviating from its mission and said it had accomplished a great deal. They both believed the house has diverse capabilities and qualifications and was capable of meeting the voters' demands.

MP Bassam Haddadin acknowledged that the major problems which people want to see eliminated are still there. He told a press conference that martial laws are still in effect one year after the expiry of a deadline set by the government to remove them. He also said most major problems, including indebtedness, unemployment, inflation and income levels, had been aggravated.

In between the two schools of thought stands a buffer group of optimists, who believe this whole argument is a healthy sign of a strengthening democratic process. As one typical housewife said, "if we can stand up and tell our MPs that they have failed, that is great. If our MPs can stand up, admit they have not done enough, and promise to do more, that is even greater."

Optimists feel that this democratic exercise will prove to be an important learning process ahead of the next elections, which will be fought on political party platforms, after the national charter is approved and parties come into being. All political circles in Jordan are looking forward to the next few months, during which regional meetings and then a national conference will approve the charter that will pave the way for the establishment of political parties within a context of political pluralism.

Political analysts believe that members of parliament will have to quickly put this stage behind them and get down to the real business of meeting the daily needs of people if they want their political parties to stand a chance in the next elections.

The above article is reprinted from "Jordan: Issues and Perspectives," a magazine published by the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington.

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Sports

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Red Star coach considers quitting

BELGRADE (R) — Red Star Belgrade coach Ljupko Petrovic is considering leaving the European Cup winners and has received offers from abroad. "It's time I started thinking of myself and my family," Petrovic, 45, said Saturday. "I've given most of my life to soccer without any significant financial rewards. That should change." Petrovic joined Red Star a year ago, under his guidance they retained their national title and beat Marseille on penalties in the European Cup final Wednesday. "Now I am in position to dictate terms," he said. "I may stay with Red Star but under conditions that are not likely to be acceptable for the club. Everything has changed now." "When I came into the club I wasn't even allowed to move furniture around in my office." Petrovic said he had received several lucrative offers from European teams, but did not want to go into detail.

Gascoigne leaves hospital

LONDON (R) — Tottenham and England midfielder Paul Gascoigne left hospital on crutches Friday and his business adviser said he would travel to Italy next week to finalize his transfer to Lazio. Mel Stein said reports that the Lazio deal was off were "definitely wrong," and talks in Rome scheduled for Tuesday should be a formality. Gascoigne, who suffered knee ligament damage in the F.A. Cup final against Nottingham Forest, would be on crutches for a month and back playing early next year, said Stein. "He is fine. He's racing in go. He obviously doesn't want to rush things too much. He has got the barest of dressings on the knee. To look at him you would not think anything was wrong." "He is just looking forward to restarting his career in Italy."

Italy adds newcomers against Norway

ROME (AP) — Newcomers Gennaro Runtuolo of Genoa and Torino forward Gianluigi Lentini joined the Italian National Team Friday as the squad gathered in Covernano to prepare for a crucial European Championship qualifying game against Norway. Coach Azeglio Vicini named Ruotolo and Lentini to replace regular members of team who are either injured or suspended. Italy will be without Roberto Baggio, Giuseppe Giannini, Roberto Donadoni and Pietro Vierchowod for Wednesday's group 3 game in Oslo. The Soviet Union leads the group with a 3-1-0 record for 7 points, one more than Italy and Hungary. Italy, like the Soviets, has played four games while Hungary has played six. Norway is fourth with 5 points in four games. Vicini did not immediately announce his lineup for the game, a must win for Italy if it keeps its qualification chances alive.

Juventus gets players for American tour

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Juventus of Turin has added Hungarian forward Lajos Detari and Yugoslav Zeljko Patrovic for its three-game North American tour next month, club officials reported Friday. Detari, who plays with Bologna, and Patrovic, of Dynamo Zagreb, were added on loan to strengthen the squad, which will be without key players engaged in European championship qualifying matches for their national teams. Juventus, which finished a disappointing seventh in the Italian first division this year despite its star-studded roster, will play the U.S. national team in New Haven June 9, a team from El Salvador in Los Angeles June 14 and at Leon, Mexico, June 1. The team will be directed by deputy coach Antonello Caccureddu. Gigi Maifredi, the team's coach last season, has been fired and is seeking a new job. Giovanni Trapattoni, who left Internazionale of Milan, will replace Maifredi next season at Juventus.

England beats Australia 1-0

SYDNEY (R) — World Cup semifinalists England scrambled a 1-0 win over Australia in a friendly Soccer International Saturday and needed an own goal to do it. The success stretched manager Graham Taylor's unbeaten start to nine games, equaling Don Revie's record, but it was an inauspicious beginning to their four-match tour. England's forwards struggled to create chances and the few they carved out were wasted in a dismal display of finishing which could have cost them the match but for a fine performance by goalkeeper Chris Woods.

Chioccioli regains pink jersey

SCANNO, Italy (AP) — Spanish veteran Marino Lejarreta won the fifth stage of the Tour Of Italy of Friday, edging Italy's Franco Chioccioli at the finish line. Chioccioli regained the pink jersey as the overall leader, retaking the position he lost to Eric Boyer Thursday, beating the Frenchman in Friday's stage by nearly a minute. Lejarreta and the Italian launched a successful attack about 30 kilometres from Scanno, the first tough mountainous stage of the 21-stage race that is set to end in Milan June 16. They built a 15-second lead on the top the Godi pass and increased their advantage in the final kilometre while approaching this hilly town in the southern Abruzzo region. The 35-year-old Spaniard edged ahead 300 metres from the finish and finished the 214-kilometre stage, the longest of the race with three mountain passes, in six hours, 17 minutes and eight seconds. Chioccioli's second-place finish gave him an eight-second advantage over Lejarreta in the overall standings.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ
Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦K72 ♦K6 .63 ♠Q109842
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What do you bid now?
A.—If partner has a club fit, there might be a slam. However, you can't jump to four clubs, since that would be Gerber—asking for aces. The way to show this hand is first to bid three clubs, which partner will treat as Stayman, and then follow up with four clubs to correct that impression.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
#Q10763 ♦AJ10543 ♣Void
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A.—There are hands with five reasonable spades and six poor hearts where you might want to bid spades first and then show hearts at your next turn. This is not the hand. Here, your hearts are so much better than the spades that anything other than a one-heart response should be treated with scorn.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦T6 ♦K872 ♦AK1062 ♦7
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

A.—Had you held two four-card suits, you would have responded up-the-one, i.e., you would have bid one diamond. With two five-card suits, however, you show the higher-ranking one first. Respond one heart. The strength of your suits does not enter into the matter.

Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦952 ♦AQ93 KJ7 ♦J85
The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—This hand is borderline for a non-forcing jump to two no trump (the modern style). However, to take that action with no stopper in the unbid suit could disaster. We suggest a slight underbid of one no trump, which would show 8-10 normally. Should partner pass, we doubt that game would be in the cards.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

#Q10973 ♦QJ92 ♦K65 ♠Void

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A.—There are hands with five reasonable spades and six poor hearts where you might want to bid spades first and then show hearts at your next turn. This is not the hand. Here, your hearts are so much better than the spades that anything other than a one-heart response should be treated with scorn.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦Void ♦A98752 ♦AB652 ♦98

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Although it looks as if you have a potential misfit, you do have two aces, and that can't be had opposite a partner who has jump shifted. There's no need to rebid your hearts yet. Bid three diamonds. That tells partner you have at least five hearts.

Exhausted Connors pulls out of Paris Open Top women seeds proceed towards quarterfinal clash

PARIS (AP) — Monica Seles and Jennifer Capriati continued their march toward a possible quarterfinal showdown with decisive two-round victories in the French Open Saturday.

Seles, defending her 1990 title and her no. 1 ranking, defeated France's Karine Quentrec, 6-1, 6-2. Capriati, seeded 10th, beat Japan's Maya Kidowaki, 6-3, 6-0.

Third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini beat France's Mary Pierce, 6-2, 6-1, setting up a fourth-round match with unseeded Australian Rachel McQuillan, a 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, victor over Canada's Helen Kelesi.

The 14th seed, Leila Meekhi of the Soviet Union, ousted American Linda Harvey-Wild, 6-3, 6-1.

Five women's seeds have been eliminated, but none of the survivors has yet lost a set.

Seles, who has not lost more than three games in any one set, and Capriati each need one more victory to set up a meeting in the quarterfinals.

"The earlier rounds this year are much easier," Seles said. "I think the top five or six women have really improved themselves compared to the others in the top 50. When we get to the semis, you'll see great matches."

"There is quite a gap between the top four or five players and the rest," the Yugoslav said. "We

pretty much always get in to the semifinals unless we play really badly."

Seles, who took over the world number one spot from German Steffi Graf in March, played her usual baseline power game with fierce double-fisted drives on both forehand and backhand.

But she said she had worked hard on improving her serve and volley game with the Wimbledon tournament in mind. "I'm volleying really well in practice but in a match it's not so secure — though it is improving," she added.

Capriati had the rare experience of trailing when she dropped serve in the third game of the opening set. But she broke straight back and only lost one more game in the entire match.

Like Seles, Capriati said she was trying to adopt a more attacking approach to the game. "It's good to have an all-round game," she said.

"I felt pretty confident out there so when I had the chance I tried to come to the net."

The men's top seed, Stefan Edberg, bowed out of a potentially difficult third-round match later Saturday against Sovjet Andrei Chesnokov.

Edberg's chief rivals, second-seeded Boris Becker and fourth-seeded Andre Agassi, coasted

into the fourth round with easy victories Friday. But Jimmy Connors captured the spotlight, and repeated centre-court ovations, by battling for more than 210 minutes against Michael Chang, a player half his age.

Connors, 38, finally succumbed to a sore back and exhaustion, withdrawing at the start of the fifth set. He was carried up the steps to the players' locker room and treated at the infirmary, but said later, "it was fun."

Chang, the 10th seed, had Saturday off while preparing for a fourth-round match with another local hero, top French player Guy Forget, the no. 7 seed.

Connors, with a packed centre-

court crowd roaring its approval, overcame his stiff back to knot his match against Chang at two sets apiece.

But then, drained of energy and playing only on instinct, he pulled out after just one point of the fifth set.

"I'm sorry, I did all I could. I can't play anymore," Connors told umpire Bruno Rebouth after 3 hours, 31 minutes of play. "Believe me, if I could stay out there and play, I would."

Chang, 19, who was not born when Connors won his first pro tournament in January 1972, was the French Open champion two years ago.

"Honestly, I didn't think Jimmy still had the energy to go out there and win the fourth set. He pulled that one out. That's Jimmy Connors," he said. "He gets all his energy from his gut."

Milan coach leaves soccer for a year

MILANELLO, Italy (AP) — Arrigo Sacchi, who led AC Milan to two international Cup and two European Champions Cup titles, has resigned as expected from the Italian powerhouse to take a one-year sabbatical from soccer.

"I am not going to coach another team, or join the national squad. I had several second thoughts before taking a final decision," Sacchi said. "This is not a farewell. I will come back."

Sacchi, whose contract with Milan expires in 1992, has been rumoured for weeks to be leaving the club and said he needs "a one year pause to reflect and study."

Four operations in 13 months led to such pessimism.

But Sacchi said she never gave up. Now she's running, and winning, again. At age 32, she's convinced her best days on the track are ahead of her.

"What keeps me running is I truly love the sport," she said. "I really, really think in my heart that I haven't run as fast as I can, and I want the opportunity to try and achieve what I think my potential really is."

Sacchi's comeback has been a quiet one by design. In the mid-1980s, when she dominated American middle-distance running, her every move was chronicled. But she's been out of the spotlight for some time.

"It has made it easier to come back without so much attention," she said. Success, though, has brought back the media.

Club officials said Sacchi will be replaced by Fabio Capello, a former player and coach of the Milan team who has long been in the staff of the Finwest group, the holding company of Italian media tycoon and AC Milan president-owner Silvio Berlusconi.

Despite finishing second in the Italian league, which would qualify for the UEFA Cup tournament next season, AC Milan will miss next year's European competition because of a one-year suspension imposed for leaving the field with three minutes remaining in its Champions Cup quarterfinal match at Olympique

Trailing 1-0, AC Milan walked off the field and refused to return when a lighting failure caused the match to be halted.

Facing elimination, many observers speculated Milan was trying to force a replay of the game.

Milan officials claimed the field became unplayable after the lights failed and several unauthorised people: Photographers, media and fans, ran onto the pitch.

Club officials, attending Sacchi's announcement at the club's training centre of Milanello, said that all Milan's key players will stay with the team next season.

Piggott to ride 66-1 outsider in Derby

Track.

Piggott rode Hokusai to finish third to Marju in the Craven Stakes at Newmarket but deserted the Colt in the 2,000 Guineas to partner Bog Trotter.

The 35-year-old Piggott, who came out of retirement last year, partners 66-1 outsider Hokusai.

Hokusai, owned by Piggott's old friend Charles St George, had been considered a doubtful starter after three disappointing runs this season.

But in a decision sure to delight all sentimentalists, St George said Saturday: "The horse has worked well and he'll run with Lester aboard."

Hokusai had recently been trained especially to assess whether he was likely to handle the difficult left-handed Epsom

would be on board.

Mervyn Wilson, managing director of Surrey racing, said: "Once everyone realised Lester was likely to be in the saddle we started taking quite a few bets for the horse."

"Obviously lots of people want to be on Piggott in the Derby — whether he's riding — and now it's confirmed he'll be on Hokusai I'm sure we'll get lots more inquiries."

Piggott won his first derby in 1954 on Never Say Die and was last successful at Epsom on Teesside in 1983. A total of 18 colts were confirmed at the latest declaration stage. Newmarket 2,000 guineas winner Mystiko is the 3-1 favourite.

Peanuts



5-10

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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1991

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close Date 30.5.91	New York Close Date 31.5.91
Sterling Pound*	1.7175	1.6975
Deutsche Mark	1.7189	1.7425
Swiss Franc	1.4840	1.4855
French Franc	5.8305	5.9075
Japanese Yen	137.78	136.35
European Currency Unit	1.1992 **	1.1805

** USD Per STG

** European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.61	5.93	6.06	6.34
Sterling Pound	11.43	11.25	11.06	10.93
Deutsche Mark	3.75	3.93	6.93	9.00
Swiss Franc	7.87	7.87	7.87	7.68
French Franc	9.25	9.25	9.25	9.18
Japanese Yen	7.81	7.65	7.53	7.31
European Currency Unit	9.93	9.81	9.75	9.50

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Precious Metals	Date: 31.5.1991
Gold	360.65 6.70

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 1/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.682	.684
Sterling Pound	1.1565	1.1623
Deutsche Mark	.3911	.3931
Swiss Franc	.4588	.4611
French Franc	.1153	.1159
Japanese Yen*	.4921	.4946
Dutch Guilder	.3473	.3490
Swedish Krona	.1098	.1105
Italian Lira*	.0527	.0530
Belgian Franc	.01900	.01910

* For 100

Other Currencies Date: 1/6/1991

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7800	1.8050
Lebanese Lira*	.074	.076
Saudi Riyal	.1815	.1821
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	.1844	.1860
Egyptian Pound	.1900	.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7400	1.7600
UAE Dirham	.1844	.1860
Greek Drachma*	.3510	.3610
Cypriot Pound	1.4100	1.4300

* For 100

Index	22/5/1991 Close	29/5/1991 Close
All Share	114.75	115.19
Banking Sector	110.98	110.27
Insurance Sector	112.59	112.59
Industry Sector	117.51	116.03
Services Sector	126.65	126.37

December 31, 1990 = 100

Bern edges closer to EC-EFTA accord

ZURICH (R) — Swiss negotiators say they have moved closer to agreeing terms for the creation of a 19-country European single market, an enterprise where their position has until now been a major stumbling block.

"In view of the progress made in the last two weeks I take a more positive view of the treaty than before," chief negotiator Franz Blankart told a news briefing.

He said the government also now felt more at ease with the planned treaty, which seeks to include the countries of the Euro-

pean Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the European Community (EC) into the European Economic Area (EEA), a single market stretching from the Arctic to the Mediterranean.

The main hurdle for Switzerland had been the EC's refusal to grant it the right to opt out of subsequent EC rules, where EFTA will be excluded from decision-making.

Switzerland was so dissatisfied with the result and final declaration of a ministerial EC-EFTA meeting in mid-May that it refused the right not to sign an

accord it saw as one-sided.

Mr. Blankart refused to be drawn on what had now made the terms more acceptable, but it seemed unlikely Switzerland had extracted further concessions from its negotiating partners.

He hinted that Switzerland had softened its position, comparing it to a carpet-seller who wanted to get the highest price. "We got a price for the carpet that is entirely appropriate," he said.

"Clearly, as part of a community of nations, Switzerland must show more will to compromise

and to work with the rest of Europe," he said.

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8 die in Pakistan arsenal blast

NOWSHERA, Pakistan (R) — An army arsenal blew up in northern Pakistan spewing out hundreds of missiles that killed at least eight people and injured 50, government officials said Saturday.

"I first thought it was an earthquake," Nowshera's assistant commissioner Fakhar Alam said of Friday's blast.

The officials said they feared the toll could go much higher.

"A column of dust and smoke rose from the dump and the shelling started," school teacher Shahid Riaz said. "The missiles were causing whistling."

Officials were unsure of the number of casualties inside the ordnance depot outside the city.

The explosion revived memories of an unexplained blast at a munitions dump near Islamabad three years ago.

Scores of children and women were missing after tens of thousands of people fled the city in panic, one official said.

"To locate them is one of our major problems, the others being defusing the large number of unexploded bombs scattered in the area and security of houses which many residents left unlocked when they fled," he said.

Protesters burn effigy of De Klerk

CAPE TOWN (AP) — African National Congress (ANC) protesters burned an effigy of President F.W. De Klerk at a demonstration Friday against white rule hours before he made a conciliatory plea for peace.

Without referring specifically to blacks, De Klerk said on national television that many South Africans "do not feel free. They feel dominated, disadvantaged and deprived of rights."

"The harsh reality remains that millions of our citizens do not enjoy the rights citizenship usually brings with it," De Klerk said in a speech marking the 20th anniversary of South Africa's full independence from Britain.

The president repeated his call for peace talks involving all political parties and an end to the violence in black townships.

About 1,000 activists took part in the "bury the racist republic" march on parliament, which was led by ANC leader Walter Sisulu and South African Communist Party head Joe Slovo.

The march — one of several around the country — was held to oppose the celebration of Republic Day, the 30th anniversary of South Africa's full independence from British rule.

With dozens of police watching,

China brings back Zhao allies

PEKING (R) — China confirmed Saturday that three fallen reformers, victims of a purge by Communist hardliners in 1989, had been rehabilitated and given vice ministerial posts.

All three were allies of ex-Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, who was ousted in a bitter power struggle and accused of encouraging unrest created by the army on June 4, 1989.

Most prominent of the three is Hu Qili, 62, once part of the Communist Party's inner circle of power as a member of the ruling politburo's standing committee. He was named vice minister of machine building and electronics industry, according to the official

Soviet pilot ignored order to destroy KAL jet — KGB

MOSCOW (AP) — More than 13 years after a South Korean plane strayed into Soviet airspace, the KGB revealed that a Soviet pilot ignored commands to destroy the aircraft and fired a warning shot instead, TASS has reported.

The incident occurred in 1978, presaging the more famous case of Korean Airlines (KAL) Flight 007 five years later. A Soviet interceptor shot down the Jumbo passenger jet, killing all 269 on board.

In 1978, pilot Alexander Bosov was ordered to "destroy the violator" but instead fired a warning shot that damaged the wing of the Korean Airlines 707, forcing it to land on a frozen lake, the Soviet News Agency said. Two people were killed.

TASS said its report was based on information came from KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, who provided Soviet journalists with secret documents about the incident.

The Korean Airlines Boeing 707 had more than 100 passengers on board.

It left Paris and headed for Alaska, Seoul, Tokyo and Osaka but lost course over the Barents Sea in the Arctic and strayed over Korea in northwestern Soviet Union on April 20, 1978.

A Soviet Air Force fighter

Pope begins Polish visit

KOSZALIN, Poland (R) — Pope John Paul spoke of his joy at the fall of communism in Eastern Europe Saturday as he began his first visit to Poland since the Solidarity union led his homeland to freedom.

"I rejoice in the remarkable good which happened and is still happening in my fatherland," the Polish-born pontiff said as he arrived at Koszalin, a northwestern city 430 kilometres from Warsaw.

"This is an enormous historical process of a multifold nature. The fall of totalitarianism," the 71-year-old Pope said after kissing the tarmac as he stepped onto Polish soil.

The Pope was welcomed amid pouring rain, wind and cold by President Lech Walesa, the former shipyard electrician and devout Roman Catholic who led Solidarity in its 10-year struggle to topple Communist rule.

"You were and are the symbol of the spirit of this nation. Of a nation which never accepted a system of enslavement," Walesa told the Pope in a welcoming speech.

He asked the pontiff to continue to help Poles with his wisdom in their difficult task of building a free country and a free market economy.

The Pope will spend nine days on his fourth pilgrimage to Poland, an overwhelmingly Catholic nation of 38 million where he is widely revered for his moral authority.

He will deliver dozens of speeches at 42 meetings and open-air masses in 12 towns and cities across the country.

The Pope told Walesa, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983 for his role in Solidarity's peaceful struggle against communism, that he spoke with an authentic voice for a new, sovereign Poland.

Small explosions could still be heard from the depot in the early hours of Saturday. Fire engines were fighting fires there more than 10 hours after the main explosion.

One missile landed on Alam's house without causing any injury. But he said he saw a dead man with his head almost blown off.

"It was terrible, terrible."

"There was continuous blasting for three hours after the first blast at 4:45 p.m. (1145GMT)," Deputy Commissioner Liaquat Ali told reporters.

"During this period people fled their homes," he added, estimating half of the city's population of some 100,000 may have fled.

Several villages up to seven

kilometres away were hit by the missiles, he said.

The huge dump covering several square kilometres employed

about 200 people. It was not known how many were killed.

Seven of the people confirmed dead were civilians and one was a soldier from the large army garrison, Ali said.

Along the Grand Trunk Road linking Islamabad and the frontier city Peshawar, hundreds of unexploded rockets and shells lay scattered through streets and gar-

dens.

Some were stuck in the masonry of houses but failed to explode because they were not armed while in storage.

Troops refused to let anybody close to the dump. Large areas of the city were cordoned off.

Villager Jamila Bibi said she saw many wounded people as she fled from the explosions.

"On the way I saw the people lying on the ground with wounds in their heads, in their legs and in their chests," Bibi said after reaching relatives in Peshawar. "I saw men and women. It was like doomsday."

Bibi, who escaped her Bashiwi home with her two young children, said she saw what appeared to be rockets smashing into village houses and the mosque near the dump.

"People were saying 'run, run, get out.' I left all my belongings and ran."

A similar arsenal blast at Ojri near Islamabad on April 10, 1988 killed more than 100 people and injured more than 1,000.

The cause of that explosion has never been officially explained.

Ojri was reported to have been used as a transit camp for weapons being sent to arm

markets remained shut. Authorities closed local schools and colleges indefinitely.

Terried people took whatever transport they could get to go to the nearby towns of Peshawar or Mardan out of reach of possible exploding missiles.

The authorities have set up emergency relief camps in the two towns.

"We don't want to stay here unless it is made a safe place," said Mohammad Aslam.

He had returned to see his damaged home only a kilometre from the blast site after spending the night in nearby hills with his family.

He was to address a peace rally in Luanda's May 1st Square after his return and sources close to the presidency said he was expected to announce the release of all political prisoners.

The peace agreement ended 30 years of conflict stretching back to an uprising against Portuguese colonial rule in 1961 and the civil war which broke out after independence in 1975.

Revellers balanced champagne bottles and beer cans on their heads and waved their arms at an all-night musical extravaganza in Kinaxixi Square as they danced to the music of dozens of local groups.

The diplomatic corps celebrated in a dimly-lit discotheque in the Hotel Panorama at a party given by the Foreign Ministry.

Ambassadors strained to exchange conversation above the raucous blare of music.

As Dos Santos flew back to

Angolans celebrate peace

LUANDA (R) — Cars hooted across Luanda, cheers rang out, people hugged each other, impromptu street parties erupted and fusillades of shots split the air to celebrate an end to three decades of conflict in Angola.

The exodus from Nowshera continued Saturday morning as refugees fled fearing fresh explosions.

"I can hardly believe it. It is peace. We have peace at last," an excited Angolan waiter exclaimed as he popped a champagne cork.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos left Lisbon early Saturday to return to Luanda after signing an historic Portuguese-mediated peace agreement with rebel UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi Friday.

Dos Santos held a huge celebration party for thousands of Angolan exiles in Lisbon and told them: "We are closing a cycle of 30 years of war in Angola to enter a phase of tolerance."

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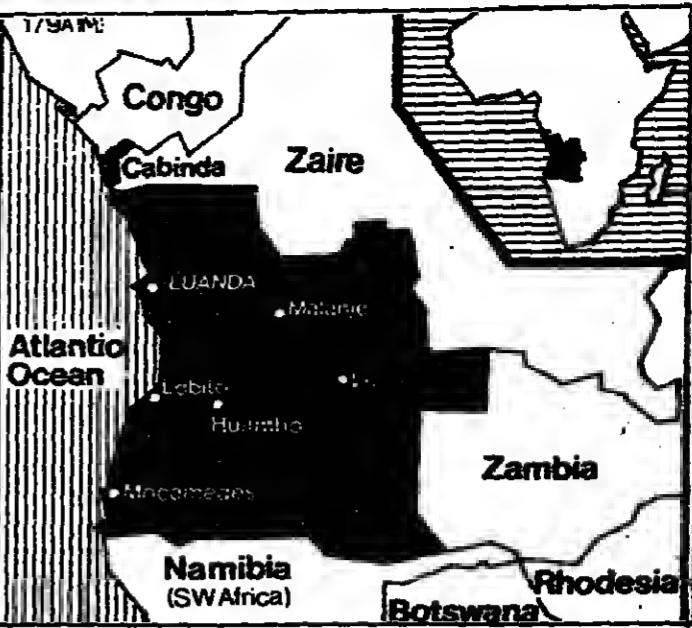
"It is a triumph of good sense and reason," said Paulina Pinto Joso, president of the Angolan Democratic Nationalist Convergence, one of 26 new parties emerging to contest the country's first multi-party elections late next year.

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The peace ceremony was broadcast live by satellite television from Lisbon.

"I thought the president and Savimbi would embrace," said security guard in front of one television set. "But I guess a handshake is enough."

Dos Santos and Savimbi signed the accord after just over a year of negotiations attended by U.S. and Soviet observers. Washington and Moscow had been behind UNITA and the ruling MPLA government respectively.

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Luanda, the United Nations was organizing a peace-keeping force of 600 observers to help to monitor the ceasefire and organize elections.

The next move will be a meeting, probably on June 7 in Luanda, of a joint political-military commission grouping both Angolan sides and U.S. Soviet and Portuguese observers who will monitor the truce and prepare for elections.

The government declared Saturday a national holiday. Churches will hold an ecumenical thanksgiving mass Sunday in the Cidade Stadium, the largest venue in the capital.

U.S. officials warn that, despite the pledges by Savimbi and Dos Santos to abide by the accord, rogue elements in the bush may continue to fight and law and order may be hard to maintain.

A major priority now is to attract urgent foreign aid to rebuild an infrastructure and economy — potentially rich in oil, diamonds and agriculture — ruined by war. Nearly a quarter of the country's 10 million people face famine.

3 N. Ireland soldiers killed in IRA attack

BELFAST (R)

Three Northern Ireland soldiers were killed and 18 injured in a mortar attack on their base in the heart of Irish Republican Army (IRA) "bandit country," police said.

It was expected to cause 44 mph (70 kph) winds and a three-metre tidal wave, it said.

The U.S. task force spokesman said the threat had forced U.S. and British Marines to suspend operations in remote islands and coastal areas battered by a cyclone on April 29.

All five U.S. Blackhawk helicopters and three British Sea King helicopters — one Sea King downed in the sea and sank on Saturday but all five crew were saved — had been flown to Dhabka for safety, he said.

The storm raging in the Bay of Bengal about 400 miles southwest of Chittagong could strike the coast at midnight, the Dhaka Meteorological Office said.

It was expected to cause 44 mph (70 kph) winds and a three-metre tidal wave, it said.

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